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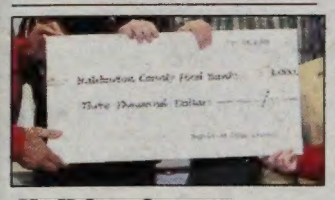

Holiday heart

Christmas can be a bountiful time for everyone thanks to donations.

See page 3

A chilly swim

Organizers of two Polar Bear Swims on January 1 issue a challenge.

See page 2

Media maven

Tammy Rea of Highlands Media Arts says everyone has a story to tell.

See page 5

Beautiful swan

The future looks bright for Minden B&B, voted one of the best on continent.

See page 12

In Quotes

"Over the years, use of the watersheds by other interests has increased significantly."

Ministry of Environment on why it's undertaking TSW review.

See page 4

Shoreline owners get a voice in waterway study

by MARTHA PERKINS
Times Staff

It might not keep more water in Haliburton County's reservoir lakes, but a new study into the operations of the Trent Severn Waterways will give Highlanders a voice in the process.

The federal government has asked Ecoplans Limited of Kitchener to "examine and make recommendations on alternative approaches to water management that may better address the interests of a full range of stakeholders while protecting the environment."

In announcing the $60,000 project, MP Barry Devolin said, "By studying the issues and concerns of the past and the present, Parks Canada is ensuring a healthy future for the Trent-Severn Waterway. Residents and businesses along the waterway, including those on reservoir lakes in Haliburton County, will welcome this opportunity to have their voices heard."

Why Parks Canada even has the responsibility of running the recreational boating system is one of the things the study will look at, says Bob Hodgins, Ecoplans' president. He'll be digging into the historical records to determine how the waterways came into being and how the present-day policies evolved and why it's run by Parks Canada.

The main focus of his work, however, will be outlining the problems and issues that exist today.

see STUDY *page 4*

Greg Hoekstra/TIMES

In by a single vote

Lisa Schell, who came out on top after an extremely close ballot recount, was sworn into office last Thursday as Ward 1 councillor in Minden Hills. Pictured above with clerk Cheryl McCarroll, Schell will replace incumbent Clayton Cameron at the council table after defeating him by the narrowest of margins – a single vote.

Security cameras on main street?

That's one option council is considering to stop vandalism

by GREG HOEKSTRA
Times Staff

Youth vandalism and mischief could soon take centre stage in the township of Minden Hills, according to comments made by Reeve Jim McMahon at a council meeting last Thursday.

The statements came after the municipality's environmental and property manager Tom Scully told council that light bulbs from downtown Christmas displays have been repeatedly found smashed and shattered throughout the downtown core. In addition to that, Scully also noted that the town's welcoming sign on Water Street has been continually tampered with – up to three times in the span of one week.

McMahon told council that he suspects youth boredom is to blame for the recent rash of petty crimes, and as a result, he would like council to work with younger community members to alleviate tedium and monotony.

"In the New Year I would like to go out and ask these kids – what do they want? Is there some kind of recreation they want in the area," said McMahon.

As a precautionary measure, Scully also suggested that some of the key targets for vandalism, such as lighting displays and signage, be elevated so they are out of reach. He also suggested that the welcoming sign be illuminated at night to deter any further defacement.

And McMahon actually went one step further than that.

"At budget time, I hate to say it, but maybe it's time that we look into having surveillance cameras downtown," he said.

All of this spawned from an otherwise humdrum conversation about the potential for LED lighting in Minden's downtown core – not unlike the lights currently on display in Haliburton's Head Lake park.

The project, which was proposed to council by the municipality's events coordinator, would cost an estimated $5,000, and would see lighting strung from Highway 35 into the downtown core and up to the cultural centre.

Several councillors agreed that the project may be worthwhile, but raised financial concerns.

"I want to know where the money is coming from," said Councillor Peter Oyler.

Since funding for the project was not allocated in the 2006 budget, council agreed to defer making a decision on the initiative, with plans to revisit the idea during the 2007 budget talks.

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Jessica Young/TIMES

Food for all

Archie Stouffer's student council organized a food drive and presented food bank representative, Ron Reid with their collection of cuisine donations last Wednesday. Front Row L-R: Holly Wu, Grade 7, Tyler Gilligan, Grade 8, Haley Moore, Grade 5, Curtis Ballantyne, Grade 4, Erin Little, Grade 4, and B.J Cooper, Grade 7. Second Row L-R: John Cross, Grade 7, Owen Duhaime, Grade 8, Teghan Dodds, Grade 8, Christopher Hall, Grade 5, and Benjamin Davis, Grade 4. Third Row L-R: Katie Findeis, Grade 8, Mikaela Charlebois, Grade 8, Megan McKay, Grade 8, Tanner Ballantyne, Grade 6, and Laura Pottier, Grade 6.

Icy plunge will get new year off to bracing start

by **MARTHA PERKINS**
Times Staff

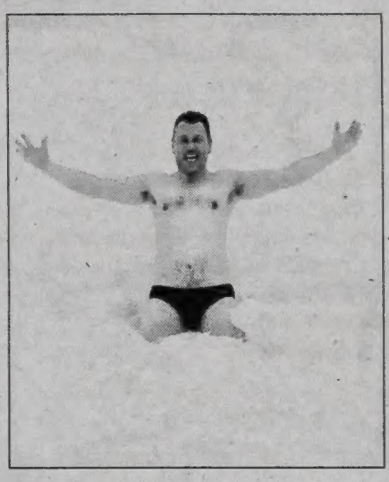
Want to embrace the new year in a dramatic, splashy way?

Two local organizations are challenging you to join them in a Polar Bear Swim on January 1.

Allsaw Pentecostal Church members have been jumping into Lake Kashagawigamog for a few years and now they want other people to not just cheer them on.

"It's something fun to start the new year with," says organizer Cathy Mitchell.

The church would like to "turn it into more of a party" by having other people join in. For every member of the community that is brave enough to take the plunge, the church will have someone follow suit.



Bruce Moffatt is deep in training to accept his sister Carol's challenge to be part of the Polar Bear Swim on New Year's Day.

Buttermilk Falls Resort and That Place in Carnarvon have added a little fundraising with their challenge.

Everyone is welcome to join the Polar Bear Swim at the resort on 1 p.m. to raise money for the YWCA Emergency Safeplace for Women in Minden.

Algonquin Highlands Councillor Carol Moffatt has jumped into the project with enthusiasm. She has already raised $300 and persuaded nine Stanhope firefighters to go swimming for charity.

She's wondering if the Dysart and Minden firefighters would be willing to take this as provocation enough to join them.

If interested, please call That Place in Carnarvon at 489-4449 or drop off your donation at the restaurant.

If you want to take part in Allsaw Pentecostal Church's event, please call Mitchell at 457-1963.

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Food bank gets donations just in time for Christmas

Holiday help appreciated, but volunteers are quick to note that donations are appreciated year-round

by JESSICA YOUNG
Times staff

Brad Trumball, Joanne Barnes, Carolyn Christian, Mary-Jane McMullen and Lindsay MacLean (center), make up the volunteer food bank crew.

Many families will be able to enjoy a special Christmas this year, thanks to the kind hearts of Minden residents.

Two local organizations gave the not-for-profit organization a helping hand on Decenber 18. The Highlands Male Chorus and the Knights of Columbus presented a $750 and $500 cheque, respectively, to the Minden Food Bank with funds arriving on the brink of the holidays.

On December 13, the Highlands Male Chorus hosted a night of songs a storytelling by local celebrities and CBC radio host Bernie MacNamee at Minden United Church.

"Everyone contributed or volunteered free of charge. We raised $3,000 that we will divide among all Haliburton food banks because of the great need this time of year," says Bob Wing, organizer of the event.

Father Tony Barol and Grand Knight Jim Wilson of the Knights of Columbus presented a $500 cheque, part of funds generated from their 50/50 draw, which is held every year. Donating money or food to the Minden Food Bank is much appreciated by the 20-some volunteer staff. However, Barbara Walford-Davis, a 12-year volunteer, is quick to note that donations are needed year-round.

"People are hungry 365 days a year," she said.

She realizes that the holidays can be an especially tough time for those without the resources to purchase food. "Christmas Boxes were handed out December 22. During the beginning of December, people were able to phone in and register for a food basket. Each food basket comes with the makings of a traditional Christmas dinner," says Walford-Davis.

Christmas boxes also included a gift for a child, and parents were able to pick out a gift at the food bank and have it wrapped.

Struggling to make ends meet is a tough enough battle. Volunteer Joanne Barnes says all families deserve to enjoy the holidays.

"It's nice to be able to help people who are more disadvantaged. I'm volunteering to make sure the kids aren't going hungry," says Barnes.

The satisfaction of knowing that your volunteer hours contribute to strengthening the community is one that Walford-Davis shares with Barnes. Walford-Davis notes that although the job is rewarding, it can also bring much heartache.

"It's very hard at times when you have a family come in crying. We had one woman who hadn't eaten in two days because she was saving food for her children. Another mother is heating her house with oven, which is extremely dangerous, because she can't afford heat."

These sad stories are a few of many the Minden Food Bank volunteers know of. "Sometimes we have extreme cases and it brings you to tears, it has a lasting effect. Sometimes you have to accept that you did all you could and move on," says Barnes.

Father Tony Barol and Jim Wilson, grand knight from the Knights of Columbus present Barbara Walford-Davis with a $500 cheque from their 50/50 draw.

"You wonder down the road how they are getting along. You can only hope that you've given them a start and they can continue on."

There was one instance for Walford-Davis that she will never forget, when she came across a former user of the food bank.

"We had one chap who came in and had a grocery cart filled with food from Valu-mart and brought it to us because we helped him when he needed food. He was in tears," says Walford-Davis.

It's apparent that food banks do much more than supply canned goods to the community. The Minden Food Bank acts as a hub for the community, with churches, local organizations and council members all on board to support the charitable organization.

Funds that are donated to the food bank are not just solely for food. The Minden Food Bank supports the school breakfast program, family services and welfare recipients. The food bank's reach stretches to Norland, Kinmount, Irondale, Carnarvon and up to Dorset.

"You'd be surprised at the number of families in this area who don't have anything. We are one of the poorest communities in Ontario," says Barnes.

This past June, 252 families were using the Minden Food Bank, but since then, Walford-Davis says the numbers have since increased. Seasonal jobs and minimum wage are two reasons why Walford-Davis believes many struggling families need to use food banks.

"We help a number of families in distress who have had fires or sickness, or patients who have had cancer and can't afford the food that they need keep them going such as Ensure," says Walford-Davis.

A typical family that uses the Minden Food Bank is on welfare, mother's allowance or disability.

"We have a number of families who have one spouse working and not enough money to get them through the month. The average family is in their late 20s and early 30s. We have a lot of seniors too who can't live on a senior's pension," says Walford-Davis.

For all people in need, food bank volunteers are hoping for more canned fruit donations this year, as well as dried goods, diapers and toiletries. As for the volunteers' wish list this Christmas season, Walford-Davis knows exactly what she wants from Santa.

"We want someone to donate property so the food bank doesn't have to move," says Walford-Davis.

The Minden Food Bank began as a small cupboard inside St. Paul's Anglican Church 13 years ago. Throughout the years the food bank has moved from the back of Value-mart, to the old IGA location and then to its new home beside Axis Pharmacy.

"If for some reason our renter doesn't want us here or something happens, where will we go? It's a big move and we've moved so many times," says Walford-Davis.

Let's hope St. Nick has heard her request.

Bob Wing from Highlands Male Chorus presents a cheque to the four Haliburton food banks from their concert with CBC star Bernie McNamee, starting with Ken Mott (Wilberforce representative), Wayne Cox (4Cs), Eveyln Mutis-Vanderzalm (Cardiff) and Barbara Walford –Davis (Minden).

Study looks into TSW's past, present and future

from page 1

"There are a huge number of stakeholders throughout the waterway," he says, and many have conflicting interests. Boaters want to make sure there's enough water flowing through the locks. Property owners on the Highlands lakes that supply this water want to keep it for their own recreational purposes. Then there are the hydro dams, Conservation Areas and environmental groups that have concerns with how the water is used.

Early in the new year, Ecoplans will be sending e-mails to its long list of stakeholders, including the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow – TSW Haliburton Sector.

"I remain very optimistic that we can have some influence on an updated water management plan," says co-chair Bonnie Fleischaker.

While she believes the $60,000 is not enough money for a comprehensive plan, $60,000 does not allow for a "comprehensive" study of the TSW, "it is a start and finally the property owners along the Gull and Burnt River Watersheds will have their say."

"The lakes and waterways which feed the TSW are vital to the economy and environment of the Highlands and many residents have been concerned about their condition for some time," adds co-chair Bram Lebo. "This was a particularly bad year for water levels, even with the heavy rains – we've had many reports of stranded and damaged boats, dangerous flows and shallows, and areas which have become completely inaccessible, leaving people unable to get to their homes or cottages."

Lebo says the group is grateful to MP Barry Devolin for helping to get this issue on the agenda and looks forward to working with Ecoplans and other stakeholders. "We hope the study leads to better water management which protects and preserves the region's natural beauty, recreational opportunties and wildlife for future generations."

Stakeholders can either express their concerns in writing or attend consultation meetings that Hodgins is planning for Peterborough and Orillia.

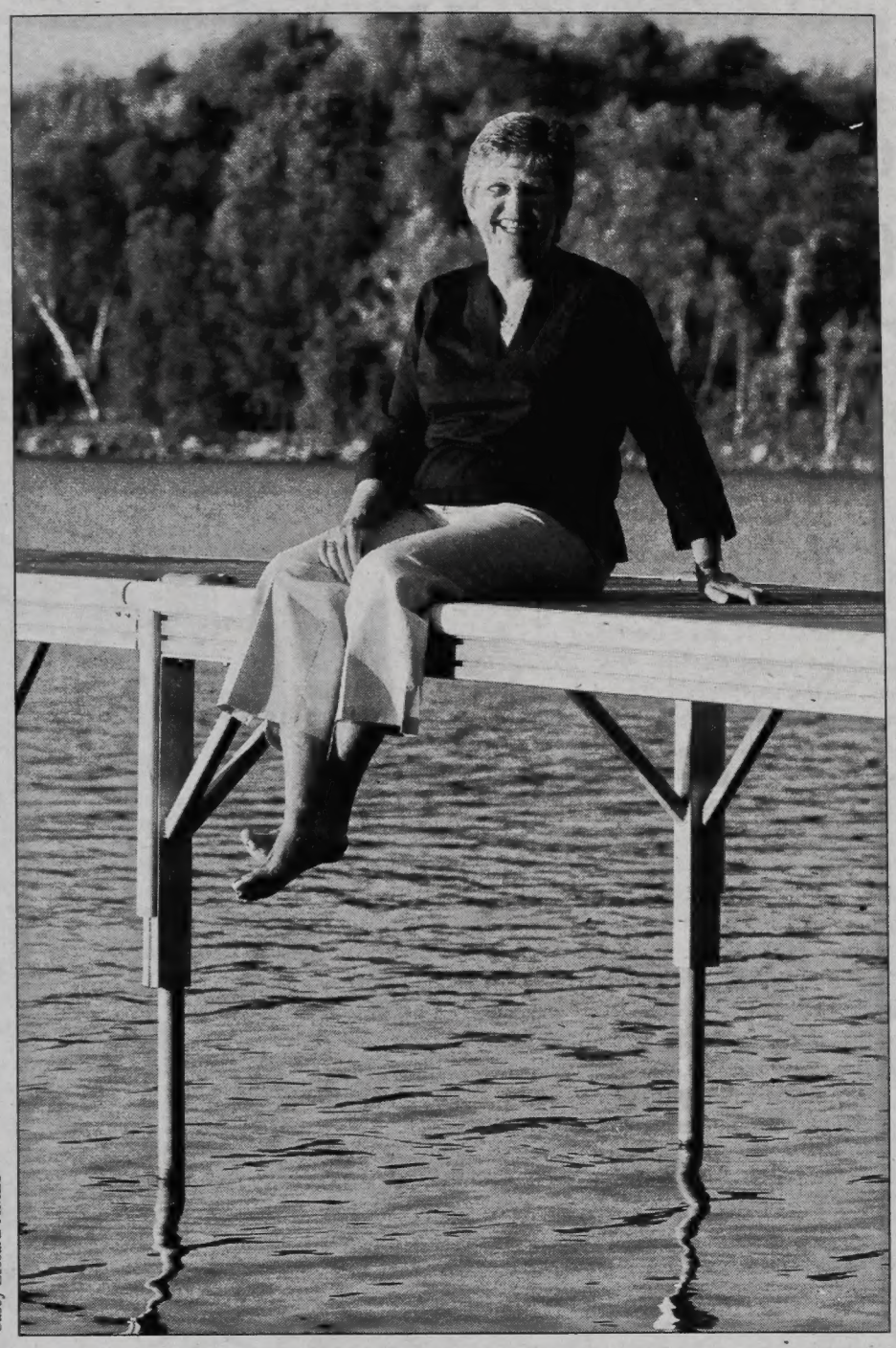
"We want everyone to have a voice without having to accommodate everything through meetings," he says.

Because the contract was only recently awarded, he was not able to set up meeting dates or an e-mail account before the Christmas break.

Fleischaker says "the coalition has already prepared a questionnaire for each of its member lake associations to document their experience with fluctuating water levels and comment on their hopes for the future of their lakes. In addition we will be addressing the issue of the severe fluctuations in the level of the Gull River in Minden. As residents of Minden Hills, we are concerned for the future prosperity of the downtown which, as we all know has great potential to be a beautiful attraction. Several of the lake associations have already returned their responses to me and three of us will be hard at work in the new year to prepare our presentation for the consultants."

Hodgins says that his company's study will not look into the actual operations of the system – how water is drawn down, the computer models or the technology. This first phase is only to get a historical reference and outline concerns.

"It gives us an opportunity to be the listeners and make sure that we are unbiased" in presenting the conflicting interests, he says.



Casey Lessard/TIMES

This photo of Bonnie Fleischaker, taken at her Horseshoe Lake home in September, illustrates why she formed the TSW reservoir coalition. She wants better systems in place to ensure that the Highlands lakes retain as much of their water as possible.

In a press release, Rona Ambrose, the Minister of Environment, says, "This study will provide important information which will enable Parks Canada and its partners to move towards a future water management regime that better meets the needs of this evolving community. This proactive water management initiative supports Parks Canada's goal to address stakeholders' needs and expectations while balancing ecological concerns such as habitat protection and conservation."

The press release also states that, "In the past, the primacy of marine navigation was the overarching principle by which waters were regulated along the Trent-Severn Waterway and the reservoir lakes. Over the years, use of the watersheds by other interests has increased significantly.

"Protection of the watersheds has emerged as a top priority and includes concerns about natural habitats, clean water, renewable energy and ecological sustainability. This increase in water usage and environmental concerns has led to a realization by Parks Canada that its jurisdiction, equipment, and water management principles may no longer be meeting the needs of all stakeholders."

Reach for The Future

For the ninth year the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation decorates trees located in the front lobbies of the Health Care Facilities with tags sponsored by gifts from our generous supporters.
As of December 19, 2006 **"The Reach for The Future"** campaign has raised **$65,678.00.** The proceeds will assist the Foundation to pay off the $100,000.00 capital loan on the Health Care Facilities.

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Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation sincerely thank our Honourary Chairmen for our 2006 "The Reach for The Future" campaign, **Dr. Bob Heyes** and **Dr. David Fiddler** .

If you would like to help us "Reach for The Future" this Holiday Season, your gift can be sent to **Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, Box 1413, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 or Box 30, Minden ON K0M 2K0,** you can deposit your gift in the donation boxes at the Minden and Haliburton facilities, or you can donate on-line at www.hhhs.on.ca/foundation.htm.

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Haliburton Family Medical Centre

Tammy Rea puts the spotlight on Minden

Media buff says everyone has a story to tell

by JESSICA YOUNG
Times Staff

Jessica Young/TIMES

Tammy's dream team: George Farrell, member of Highland Media Arts, and Laurie Carmount, curator of Agnes Jamieson Gallery and secretary of Highland Media Arts, work closely with Tammy Rea, centre, to bring arts and culture to the forefront of Haliburton County.

The name Tammy Rea is synonymous with the arts and culture community in Minden. With two privately-owned businesses – Milestone Media and Media 35 – she has undoubtedly paved her way to success. But many residents know her best as chair of Highland Media Arts, a not-for-profit volunteer organization that aims to provide the community with captivating artistic events.

Before Rea and her family settled in Minden in 2001, they travelled the world and finally ended up in the only place her children could call home – Gull Lake.

"My husband's grandfather was on Gull Lake, one of the first families to reside here. When I met my husband, we built our own place, we had our kids, but then we got moved overseas and lived in Hong Kong and Singapore."

Her husband David had landed a job opportunity of a lifetime working in computer banking and took his family along for the ride.

"At that time, my background had been computers. I had worked for American Express, Bank of Montreal, the Canadian Red Cross. It was very heavy computer work. When I went to Asia, I had the luxury and opportunity to combine my love of arts and computers. I was able to take a lot of training."

Tammy fell in love with Asia but, after September 11, her family decided it was time to move back to Canada as the job market proved unsteady.

"We wanted the kids to have a good adjustment to Canada. Our kids were embraced at Archie Stouffer Elementary School and Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. Now we've been here five years, and we'll be here a lot longer because we are not leaving this community."

Tammy's work ethic and dedication to Minden is often praised. She says her dedication is due to her love of her community. She's eternally grateful for the way the town has welcomed her and her family with open arms.

She created Milestone Media in 1998, a digital production company that provides memoir-type movies. Whether it be weddings or documenting the life of a lost loved one, she sees her work as a great honour.

How she came to feel so passionately about her work is attributed to her travels and the life lessons she's taken from them.

"I learned from that experience that everyone has a story. If you got in a taxicab, you'd find out the driver's story. Your restaurant waiter, the man who you buy fruit from — each person has an amazing story," she says. "You realize the importance of people's stories when you leave your own culture and you look at others."

Her passions seem endless. When Tammy isn't working on her private businesses or acting as chair of Highland Media Arts, she spends her spare time luging. She helps promote the local luge organization as a committee member, often monitoring the track and taking part in the action herself. Her two sons, William and Mitch, are also involved.

William has since started his post-secondary education at the University of Waterloo, studying systems design engineering. Tammy didn't want to see him go but knew her son was ready to take the leap to university, and all because of the people of Minden.

"The teachers at the high school and the principal, they cared about my son. This community just made him so confident, so knowing of what he could do. He vows when he becomes an engineer to come to Haliburton and start a company."

That would suit mom just fine since one of Tammy's many joys is watching her boys enjoy all that Minden has to offer.

"My kids used to love that they had to rescue the sailboats when they went offshore and wear wet suits and parkas. They continue to know that Minden has the best of the outside and inside world. That's what they love. That's what I love."

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Hopes for a new start

SINCE WE ARE ABOUT to welcome a brand new year, let's try to start it on a note of optimism. While it might be tempting to think the federal government is engaging in a new study into the Trent Severn Waterway just to temporarily placate people who aren't happy with the way it's being operated, let's believe that the study is a positive first step.

The $60,000 study will begin by investigating the history of the waterway, dating back to the 1800s, and how it got to be the way it is today. It's not going to look at any of the day-to-day operations or decide if using logs to control the release of water from Highlands lakes is the best available technology.

But at least Highlanders are going to be asked what they think about losing a lot of their shoreline every summer just so boaters in the TSW can enjoy a sunny day on the water. If the study's consultants need any background on that, the Times' archives can certainly be opened up for their perusal. People whose docks are left eight feet above the water line, or can't get into their water-access cottage because rivers between the lakes turn to mud, have not been shy about expressing their opinions over the years. We've been covering people's unhappiness with the present system for decades, with the intensity of articles spiking every time there's a dry summer.

We can also be grateful that the coalition of lake associations in the Haliburton reservoir lakes is already a cohesive, dedicated, well-versed group of advocates. Formed by Horseshoe Lake resident Bonnie Fleischaker, who decided to do more than just write letters of protest, the coalition is the best voice for change that this county has had. Co-chaired by lawyer and Drag Lake cottager Bram Lebo, this group has done its research. It's also reached out and strengthened its voice by getting support from nearly every lake association in the county. It's leading a smart campaign, based not only on emotion. Politicians are accustomed to people complaining to them. The coalition takes it a step further by making suggestions and challenging the status quo.

Of course, the cynics among us – and this editorial space admits to expressing that we'll-believe-it-when-we-see-it point of view – wonder why the federal government will listen to a relatively small group of disgruntled lakefront property owners. It's not always easy for a politician to go to bat for people who are viewed to be privileged because they can afford to own property on a lake. It's even harder in this riding where, to the more populated south of us, there's a competing desire to get as much of our water as possible.

But again, the new year is supposed to be a time of hope in the possibility of good things to come, of turning over a new leaf, of moving on from past mistakes. So our wish is that this study will also be the start of good things. The government will read the report, share the outrage of Highlands property owners, and feel compelled to do something about their concerns. It will be a happy 2007.

- Martha Perkins

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

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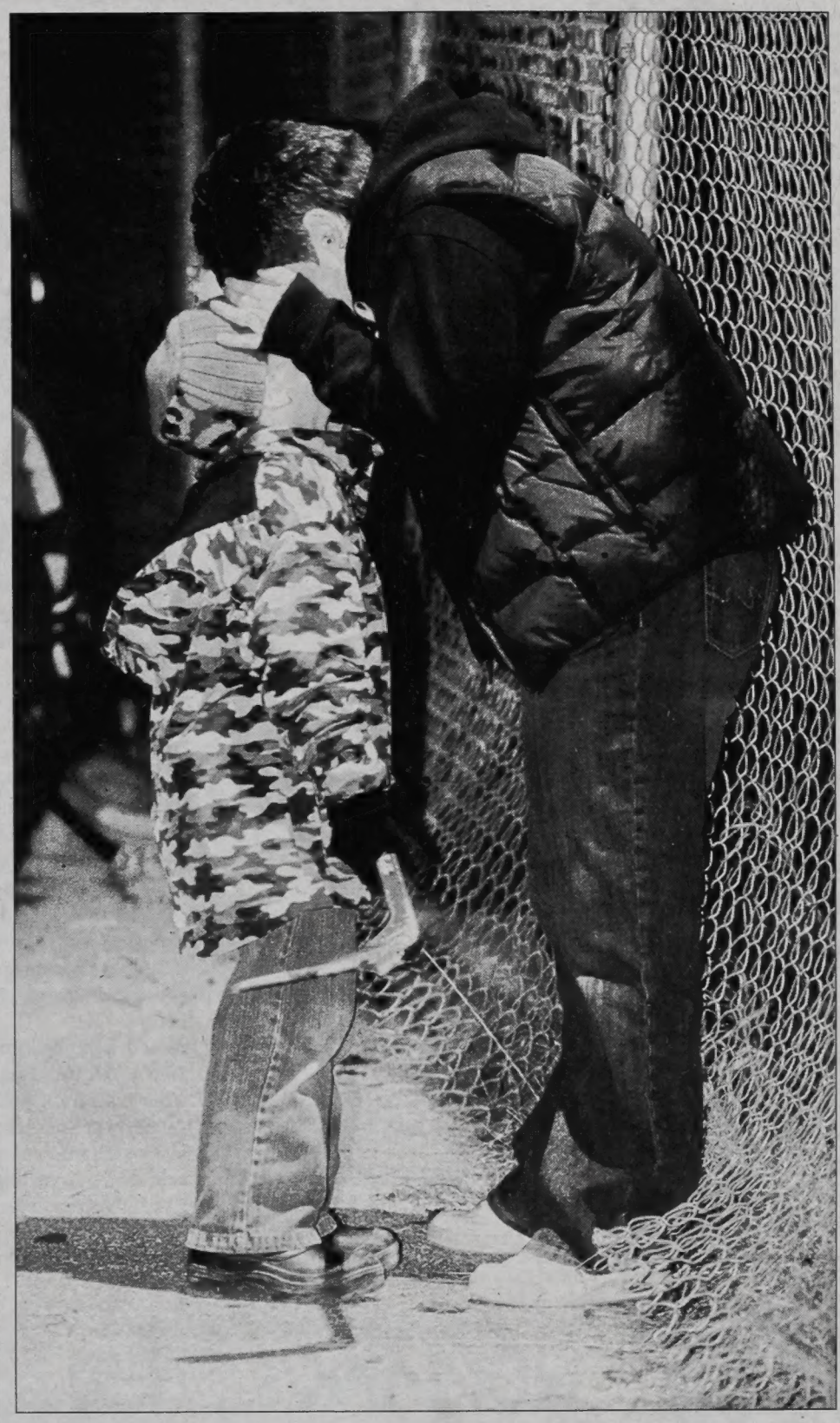


IMAGES OF THE HIGHLANDS

Can you see me? Photo by Casey Lessard

QUEENS PARK NEWS

A message from Laurie Scott

Christmas wishes

This is the time of year where timeless traditions become alive again. Families gathering for dinners, Christmas carols and decorations all bring to us the excitement of the season.

There are many things about Christmas that make it a very special time. Most of us are fortunate enough to spend time visiting with family and friends and travelling. We can also look forward to the end of a busy time of shopping for gifts, attending Christmas concerts, work parties and other seasonal events.

I am very fortunate to represent the most beautiful and scenic riding in Ontario, but also am proud to represent so many hard-working people and families who are committed to providing the best for their communities.

Volunteers also are what bring alive the spirit of Christmas for children and families who otherwise would not have a reason to celebrate. Toy Drives, Santa Claus Parades and Food Banks are just some of the great work, provided by our volunteers, young and old, in order to help bring happiness into people's lives and to spread the Christmas Spirit to all.

In spite of the busy-ness and the rush of the season, Christmas represents so much of what is good about humanity. The sprit of family and friendship, the sprit of giv-

see SEASON *page 7*

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Beat the crowds

BEYOND 35

Steve Galea

PLEASE DON'T get me wrong - for the most part, I love the holiday season. Unfortunately, though, every year it is partially ruined for me by the crass commercialism that has become part of our lives since early November. In fact it has gotten to the point where I am actually glad that Christmas and Boxing Day are behind us, just so we can carry on with our lives and deal with the important things that matter most to all of us.

That's right, there are only 85 shopping days left until my birthday! I repeat - 85!

Yes, I know that it has crept up on us once again, what with retailers diverting our attention to the holiday festivities and all. But, luckily, there's still time for you to do my birthday up right. But only if you start prioritizing your shopping lists now. Eighty-five days go quicker than you think.

I know what you're thinking. What do you get the man who has everything? Well, I don't know about him, but a partial list of things I'd like includes a fine 8-weight fly rod with machined aluminum matching reel, quality binoculars, a new boat and motor, a Humvee or Land Rover, and a personal masseuse named Candi who just happens to enjoy wearing breast plates and a Viking helmet.

Of course, you don't have to listen to me. These are merely suggestions. Feel free to upgrade as you see fit.

Needless to say, I think we all know that March 22nd is about so much more than just thoughtful and expensive gifts addressed to me. There's the adulation and compliments too. And, for those so inclined, I would not be too quick to rule out poetry or even heartfelt sonnets describing all that I mean to you. Hey, why not compare me to a summer's day? I do not think that would be too out of line.

The important thing is that you start planning for the glorious 22nd now. Avoid the line-ups and traffic! It'll only get worse from here on in. Remember last year?

Look, I'm not crazy. I know that at least half of you don't celebrate my birthday nearly as well as you would like. And I also understand that there are even some who probably missed a year or two due to amnesia, being kidnapped by a cult, or perhaps incarceration in a maximum-security facility.

There's no need to feel bad though. As we speak, there are 85 shopping days left to make it up to me.

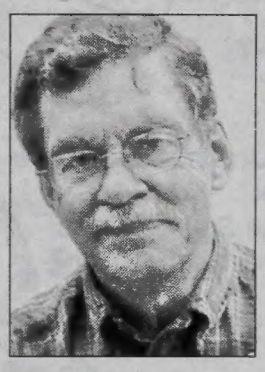
Bear in mind, however, that tomorrow there will be 84. And the next day 83. And day after 82. You get the picture. Time is running out. You really shouldn't waste more time reading this.

I know a lot of you are last minute shoppers and perhaps a few of you still owe on the credit-card debt you incurred at Christmas. If that's the case, I completely understand. What's a three-month extension between friends?

If I might be a little bold, I'd encourage you to shop locally. After all, this is not just a big day for me, it is also important to our retailers. For those who are new at this let me also suggest an initial price point of $25, although, to be truthful, $50 is more in keeping with the importance of the occasion.

Lastly, spend with your heart. I think that's important. Otherwise we run the risk of commercializing the occasion.

Interrupting a fisher's dinner



BACK OF BEYOND

Neil Campbell

WOULDN'T IT BE wonderful, my friend Randy remarks, if just for a moment we could smell all the smells a dog smells?

Only for one moment, I think. Two moments and my head would explode from olefactory overload.

Imagine the sounds of what The Brown Dog Jiggs smells as he stands on the back stoop, long nose canted skyward, inhaling all of the morning news from Sapsucker Ridge.

Think of the difference between sound and smell. Sound is transitory, already history even as it is being heard; smell lingers on to be savoured and analyzed. Sounds are sequential; smells are layered.

If I were to read this paragraph aloud, you would hear it one perfectly ordered word at a time. If you could smell it, it would be a disorderly jumble of messages, left in heaps to be sorted out.

Translated into sound, the odours that Jiggs drinks in from each passing breeze would make a din that would drive you to your knees, a record of all that happened over hundreds of acres in all of the days since the last hard rain.

If Jiggs were to transcribe all he learned from the first whiff of the raccoon that crossed the yard last night, it wouldn't come close to fitting into this space.

He could tell you not only about its age and gender and general health, but about its state of mind, where it had been, what it passed through, what it had been eating, perhaps even identify it as a coon he had met or smelled before.

And he could sort those details out of all the information that wafted past his nose in that instant.

Yet dogs, we know, are poor, dumb creatures, inferior to us in all the tasks that we decide must be important because our species does them well.

The animal that Jiggs detected one day last week certainly would agree on his intellectual inferiority. A fisher has to be a lot smarter than a dog because it is on its own in the wild.

A really strong and interesting odour drives Jiggs into a frenzy of barking and a reckless, soaring all-out sprint to its source.

Usually its source is gone by the time he gets there but the fisher that brings The Brown Dog running near Big Bob Lake is still around, looking at the lunch it has just been eating.

It is draped over a low branch on a tall oak tree, all pointy-faced and glaring menace, tail as bushy as Jiggs' but swishing in catlike fury, not wagging.

The lunch it has been eating alfresco is at our feet. I am too busy leashing Jiggs and trying to restore order to be sure, but that lunch seems to be a hawk, its head already eaten and its breast torn apart.

I have difficulty wrapping my mind around the idea of an animal that can't fly capturing a bird that can, but my friend Wayne Coltman tells me later about a fisher killing a turkey, a bird as big as the animal.

Perhaps top-of-the-food-chain predators like a hawk get careless, forget there are creatures that can turn them from eater to eaten, and sleep so soundly in tree tops that a stealthy fisher can creep up on them.

Or perhaps the hawk died some accidental death and the fisher found it while the meat was still fresh.

Jiggs finds the fisher more interesting than the deceased hawk and so do I. There have been other fishers in my neighbourhood over the years, but this is the first my dog and I have seen together.

If you have never met one, a fisher is a fox-sized weasel, dark brown with a pointed nose, rounded ears and long, bushy tail.

The fisher is famous for being quick enough to be the only successful killer of porcupines. It circles with the quill pig, biting at its face repeatedly, finally driving it to exhaustion and making several days' worth of meals for itself.

Over-trapping all but cleaned fishers out of this part of Ontario, creating a plague of porcupines, but good management restored order and the populations are back in balance.

Fishers also are famous for wiping out housecat populations on the edges of rural villages, often leaving their carcasses uneaten. Cat lovers see them as vicious, wanton killers, two traits they should be able to recognize, but all the fishers are doing is weeding out the competition.

Our tail-swishing Bob Lake fisher looks as though it would like to weed out Jiggs and me. Before it can decide which of us to kill first, we leave.

(Credit where credit is due: Much of the natural science in this column comes from *Up North Again*, by Doug Bennet and Tim Tiner, and from Mammals of the Great Lakes Region, by Allen Kurta.)

Season is symbolic of goodwill for all

from page 6

ing, along with the aspirations of hope and the desire to make the coming year the best it can be.

The Christmas season is in many ways symbolic of goodwill for all. If there is any place where the fundamental principles of freedom and affirmation of our diversity should be abundantly evident, it is in this great province of Ontario and in Canada.

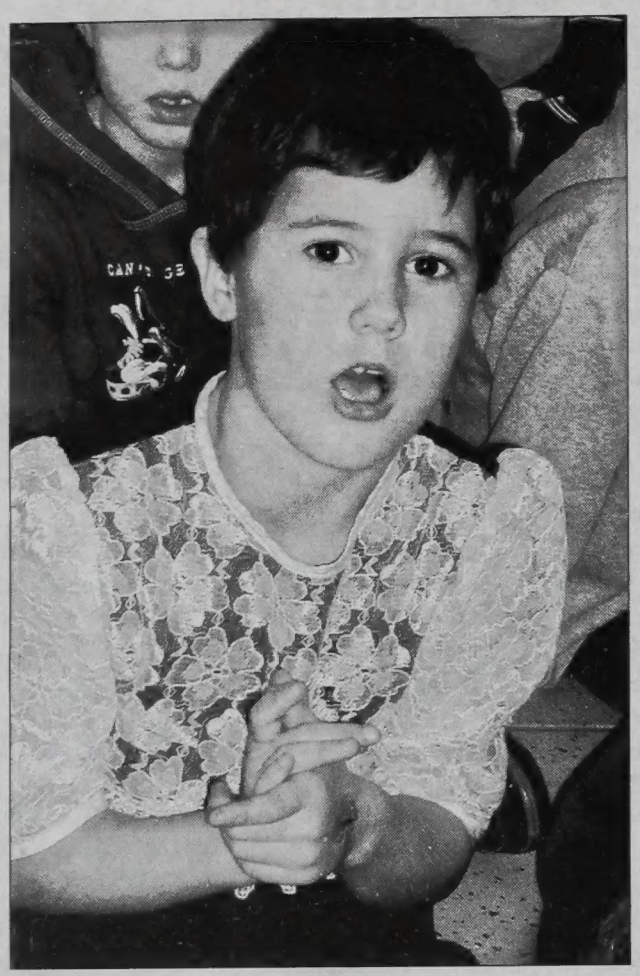
I wish all of you the joy and hope of this Christmas season. Please have a safe and happy holiday, and a wonderful new year in 2007.

It is a pleasure to invite you to attend one of my annual New Year's Levees:

- January 6th at the Haliburton Royal Canadian Legion, 719 Mountain Street, from 2 – 4 p.m.
- January 7th at the Lindsay Inn, 354 Lindsay Street South, from 2- 4 p.m.

As in past years, please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to local food banks. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from my family to yours.



Emma Weiss, left photo, keeps the beat with fellow classmates as carols were sung at Archie Stouffer last Thursday. Brittany Hewitt stood up and danced to her favourite tunes, while Aidan Garbult and Ryan Prentice (top right) sung along. Hannah Taylor and Madison Spooner (bottom right) had front row seats to the festivities.

Photos by Jessica Young

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E-MAIL:: your order to the Festival Box office, <tickets@highlandssummerfestival.on.ca> including your VISA/MC/AMEX number, expiry date, telephone number and mailing address.
IN PERSON: Purchase your season pass at Highlands Summer Festival retailers: *Kitchens Etc.*, in Haliburton and *The Storeroom* in Minden
PHONE: Call Highlands Summer Festival Box Office at (705) 457-9933. Have your VISA/MC/AMEX card available for faster processing of your order.
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Note 3 Sign up before January 31, 2007 and the One Time fee is still $149.95 compared to the new $199.95 charge - this means a savings of $50.00. Additional charges may also apply.

CARNARVONLANES

High Average: Ken Thompson 209; Lillian Mattsson 178
High Single: Jim Finlay 250; Mabel Clendenning 227
High Single HC: Jim Finlay 301; Mabel Clendenning 270
High Triple: Claude Coté 640; Lillian Mattsson 593
High Triple HC: Claude Coté 718; Lillian Mattsson & Mary Wilkins (tie) 710

Tuesday Night, December 12, 2006

High Average: Ken Thompson 221; Marlene Robinson 187
High Single: Dan Harding 276; Clara Vuksic 239
High Singe HC: Dan Harding 302; Clara Vuksic 287
High Triple: Eric Burk 719; Clara Vuksic 639
High Triple HC: Eric Burk 800; Clara Vuksic 787

Wednesday Afternoon, December 13, 2006

High Average: Ken Thompson 223; Marie Thompson 173
High Single: Robert Terro 322; Norma Terro 202
High Single HC: Robert Terro 360; Janet McGrath 262
High Triple: Ken Thompson 744; Carol Snow 505
High Triple HC: Robert Terro 847; Carol Snow 726

Thursday Afternoon, December 14, 2006

High Average: Ken Thompson 214; Josie Cheesman 165
High Single: Ken Thompson 276; Pearl Foster 216
High Single HC: Bob Webb 276; Maraylene Welch 275
High Triple: Ken Thompson 734; Pearl Foster 547
High Triple HC: Bob Webb 728; Lenore Workman 747

MINDENLANES

SENIORS MIXED 636 STATISTICS – DEC. 11

Men
High Average: Bob Vankoughnet, 190
High Single: John Ritchie, 293
High Triple: John Ritchie, 660
High Single w/hdcp: John Ritchie, 330
High Triple w/hdcp: John Ritchie, 771

Women
High Single: Estella Burch, 183
High Triple: Barb Ballantyne 493
High Single w/hdcp: Elaine Smith, 266
High Triple w/hdcp: Elaine Smith, 733

New fishing regulations delayed

2005-2006 Fishing Regulations Remain In Place

Anglers should continue to follow the 2005-2006 fishing regulations until the new 2007-2008 Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations are released.

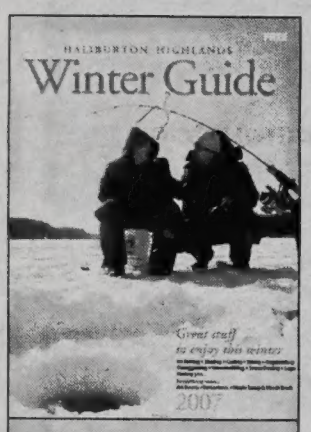
"Anglers should keep their copy of the 2005-2006 Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary and continue to follow those rules," said Natural Resources Minister David Ramsay. "We have been working on significant changes to the fishing regulations, but they will not be in place by January 1, 2007."

Federal approval of the new fishing regulations is still pending. Anglers will be advised when the new regulations have been finalized through the news media and the ministry's website. In the interim, the current regulations will remain in effect and anglers should continue to follow the 2005-2006 Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary until further notice.

The planned regulation changes for 2007 are part of the ministry's new ecological framework for recreational fisheries management in Ontario announced last year. This includes managing fisheries on a zone basis rather than on an individual lake basis and reducing the number of fishing divisions to 20 zones from 37. The new Fisheries Management Zones are based on ecological and social factors and easy-to-find boundaries.

"The new regulations better meet the needs of anglers, and help ensure the health and sustainability of the province's fish populations," added Ramsay.

The redesigned fishing regulations summary and better maps will make the new rules easier to understand.



Winter Guide 2007
Available throughout the county FOR FREE

There are limits to what you can give.

As of January 1, 2007, only individuals can make federal political donations.

- As a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada, you can give up to $1,100 in total per year to each registered party.
- In addition, you can give up to $1,100 in total per year to the registered associations, nomination contestants and candidates of each registered party.
- You can give up to $1,100 in total to the contestants in each registered party leadership contest.
- You can also give up to $1,100 per election to each independent candidate.
- You can no longer make a cash donation of more than $20.
- Corporations, trade unions, associations and groups can no longer make political contributions.

For more details on these and many other important changes to the *Canada Elections Act*, click on the *Federal Accountability Act* box at **www.elections.ca** or call **1-800-463-6868.**

TTY 1-800-361-8935 for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing

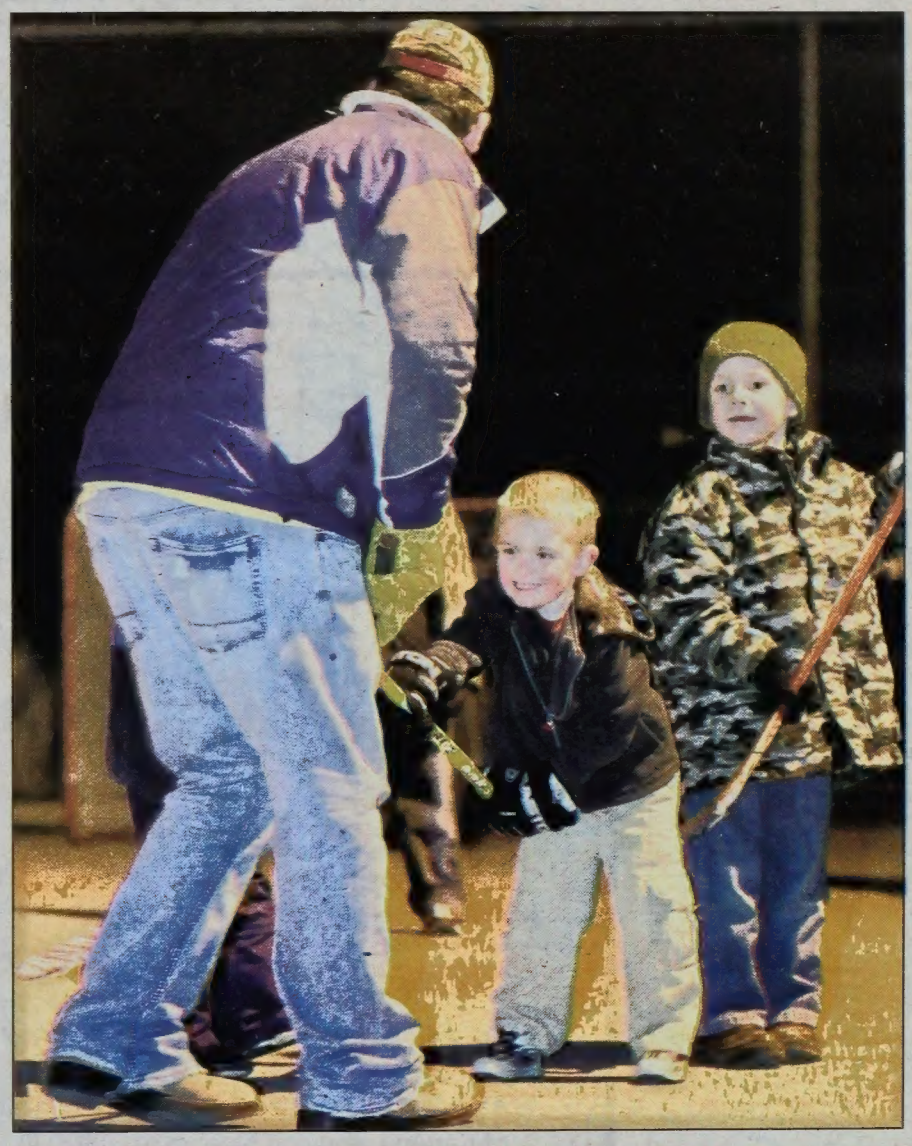
Elections Canada

The Highland Storm tyke team held a road hockey match as part of its Christmas party celebrations. The kids took on their parents ahead of a dinner at the Minden fire hall. By all accounts, the kids bested the adults.

Left: Tammy Smith defends her end, standing on the ball while Owen Smith and Josh Boice try to get it out.

Below left: Ryan Prentice and Aidan Garbutt see the role Smith plays on the adult team and decide to take her out of commission.

Below: Jesse Sisson takes a swing at Tom Prentice while Owen Smith watches. Luckily for Jesse, the ref turned a blind eye to his offence.



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Haliburton Legion
10:00am - 1:00pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2007
Sunderland Legion
5:00pm - 8:00pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2007
Lindsay Legion
10:00am - 1:00pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2007
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Casey Lessard/TIMES

Bob Baynton-Smith is the innkeeper at the Wild Swan on Invergordon Street in Minden.
The riverside inn was recently named one of the top ten secluded bed and breakfast inns in North America.

Wild Swan Inn takes flight

With expansion plans and recent international recognition, the Wild Swan is poised for success

by **JESSICA YOUNG**
Times staff

The Wild Swan Bed and Breakfast Inn will soon spread its wings with an additional three rooms on the third floor. Slated to open in roughly a year, Minden's well-known place of escape just keeps getting better.

Everything that guests enjoy in the Swan's existing rooms will be included in the expansion, such as classic Edwardian-Victorian décor and in-room Jacuzzi's. Bob Baynton-Smith, innkeeper and host of the Swan, is excited for the upcoming year's extension to his inn.

The Wild Swan has already been titled as one of the top 10 places to B&B in Ontario by prestigious author Janet Higgins. And now, another accolade can be added to the list.

In the recent 10th anniversary issue of North American Inns magazine, writer Mary Hughes highlighted the Wild Swan as one of the top 10 secluded B&Bs across the U.S. and Canada.

"I'm pleased and honoured we were chosen as one of the best romantic getaways," says Baynton-Smith.

Hughes encourages potential guests to try the Swan's two-course breakfasts. Freshly baked croissants, homemade waffles with locally-produced maple syrup and eggs benedict are some of the many choices visitors can choose from. All recipes are courtesy of Baynton-Smith.

He credits word of mouth and a solid website for his constant stream of guests. But what makes his B&B top the charts, he says, is the exceptional food, service and accommodations his visitors experience.

"The privacy of our guests is incredibly respected. We've had well-known celebrities that have come here and they haven't been disturbed or bothered. They know their privacy will be taken care of."

Heading into his third year running the inn, Baynton-Smith still finds pleasure in serving guests from around the world.

"It's a joy to run it. It's a lot of fun. I have great satisfaction in meeting a lot of wonderful people that come into the Swan. Mostly people are from Toronto, but other guests have traveled from England, France, Spain and Italy."

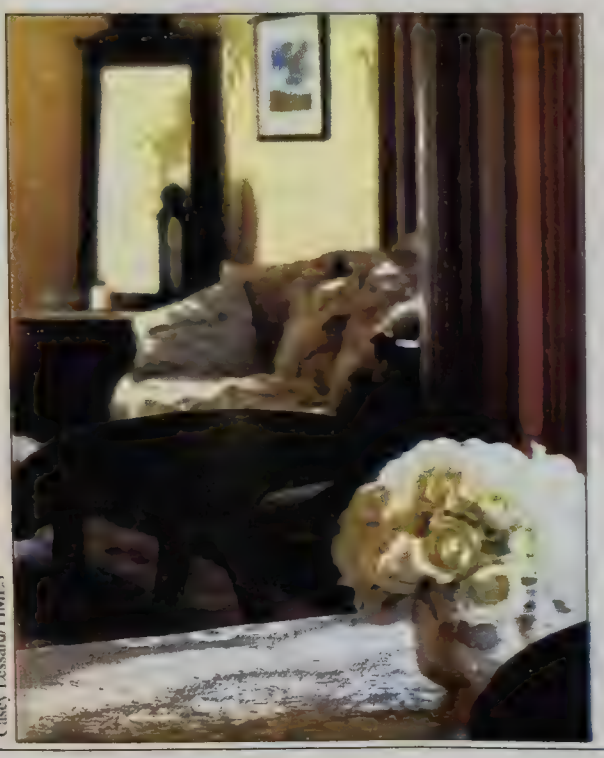
Being situated in Haliburton County is what makes Wild Swan stand out as an impressive getaway for his global guests.

"I try to promote winter events to our clients, such as dog sledding, skiing and also cross country skiing. During the summer I encourage nature walks, canoeing and all kinds of things."

As for delicious cuisine, Baynton-Smith directs guests to the Old Country House in Haliburton, and the Grill on the Gull and Wild Orchid, both located in Minden.

Thankful for another honourable nod from the industry, Baynton-Smith says he plans to continue as innkeeper for as long as he can.

"As long as people keep coming, I'll run it."



Casey Lessard/TIMES

Casey Lessard/TIMES

Left: A view from the dining room into the lounge, where visitors can relax and mingle after a long day of touring the county.

Above right: One of the four bedrooms currently available; three more are set to open in about a year. Each room has its own Jacuzzi bath and sinks preserved from a San Francisco inn.

Right: The magazine that praised the Wild Swan as one of the best secluded B&Bs.

Goodbye chalkboard, hello smart board

New teaching tool appeals to students' love of technology

by JESSICA YOUNG
Times Staff

Pen and paper don't make the grade at Archie Stouffer Elementary School anymore. The days of a teacher writing with white chalk on a green board can now be considered old fashioned.

Smart boards, a computerized chalkboard that's gaining popularity in North America, is making its way into the Minden school, proving to be a hit among the kids as a fun, interactive system to help them learn.

"We only have two smart boards, but I'd like to have one for every division," says Joan Harpell, principal of Archie Stouffer Elementary School.

The board acts as a computer screen on which students can move forward or back on lesson slides, or can write with electronic markers to draw, highlight or answer questions.

"The kids are used to technology, they have grown up with it. They are motivated and engaged by it," says Harpell.

Harpell credits the use of eye-popping animation and colour font and paint options of smart boards as technological improvements that capture little people's attention. Also, the screen constantly shows a computer mouse, so children have the a host of options while learning, like choosing wacky designs and pictures as if it were play program at home.

"They can have access during a lesson to Internet sites and to lessons that have been planned that are saved in files," said Harpell. "Students are also continuing to watch and observe technical skills that they will need to have in the future. I really anticipate a lot of changes in the way we do things in the next couple of decades."

Better than chalk: Colourful graphics and movable text lit up literary teacher Ann McDonald's lesson in the library thanks to the use of smart boards, the newest addition to educational technology in Archie Stouffer Elementary School.

It's no doubt that assistive technology has changed the methods in which teachers convey information to students.

Smart boards seem to be an inevitable part of the technology-based classrooms that are becoming the norm. However, they come at a hefty price – roughly $1,750 apiece. Harpell is looking at fundraising ideas because she feels it's essential for her students' growth in a fast-paced, techie world.

"We're at the beginning stages of getting teachers familiar with smart boards. The smart boards engage students during every lesson. Students are spellbound when they've got one turned on," she says.

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Casey Lessard/TIMES

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Floyd Hall Insurance and Gore Mutual Insurance are helping entertain area children by donating $1,000 each to Razzamataz kids' programming. From left: John Hastings with Gore Mutual, Jenny Sharp with Razzamataz, Monique Dulong, Michelle Dulong as Razzie, and Glenn Hall of Floyd Hall Insurance.

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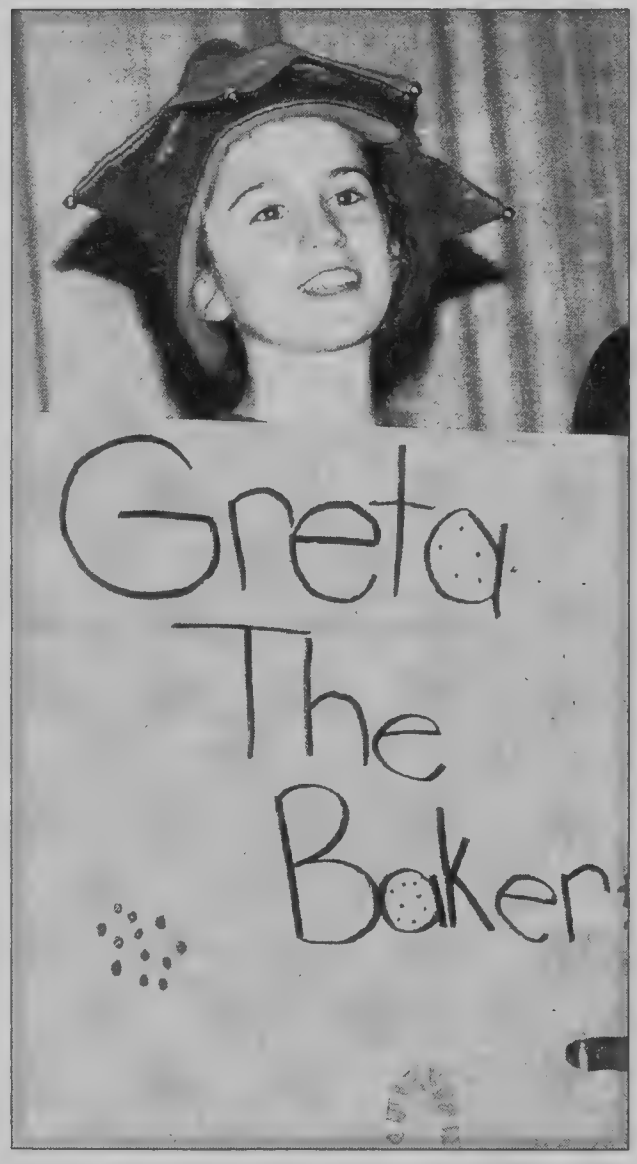

All I want for Christmas

Top Left: Archie Stouffer teachers joined together, missing teeth and all, singing "All I want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth," triggering giggles from students during the morning Christmas assembly on the last day of school before the holiday break.
Top Right: A decorated Karley Wilson, 5, listens attentively to her schoolmates as they perform.
Bottom Left: Eveyln Wilcox, 4, looks picture perfect as she absorbs the sounds of the early-morning festivities.
Bottom Centre: Maia O'Sullivan, 9, played Greta the Baker in a remake of A Christmas Carol.
Bottom Right: Ruthy Parker, 4, came dressed for the occasion in her Dora the Explorer Santa ensemble and hat.

Photos by Jessica Young

SERVICE DIRECTORY

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Haliburton County Development Corporation

2006 COMMUNITY REPORT

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS APPROVED FOR PROJECT FUNDING

Agnes Jamieson Gallery
Algonquin Gateway Business Association
Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands
Canoe FM
Children's Water Festival
Community Care Haliburton County
Dorset Heritage Museum
EH! ~ Environment Haliburton
Family Services of Haliburton
Haliburton ATV Association
Haliburton County Folk Society
Haliburton County Food Net
Haliburton County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee
Haliburton Highlands Health Professional Recruitment Committee
Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trails
Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council
Haliburton Highlands Trails & Tours Network
Haliburton Highlands Writers & Editors Network
Haliburton Sculpture Forest et al.
Health for Life Steering Committee
Highlands Media Arts
Kinark Outdoor Centre
Minden Agriculture Society
Minden Hills Cultural Centre
Minden Banner Committee
Minden Hills Museum
Minden Merchants Revitalization Committee
Redstone River Luge Club
Ski Friends of the Frost Centre
St. George's By the Lake
U-Links
Wilberforce Curling Club

BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS APPROVED FOR PROJECTS IN: SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS PLANNING AND YOUTH INTERNSHIPS

Algonquin Naturopathic Centre
Algonquin Roofing
Applied Geographics Inc.
Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands
Blackbird Studio Design & Consulting
Canoe FM
County Commercial Printers
Delta Pinestone Resort
Divine Discoveries
Dominion Hotel
Ecoscapes
Elite Cottage Home Services
Fay & Associates
Fleming College
Firefly Media
Gaia Centre
Gerry's Electric
H&R Block
Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce
Haliburton Highlands Land Trust
Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council
Haliburton Yoga
Highlands Media Arts & Minden Hills Museum
HP Super Store
Hunter Creek Inn
J. Wruth & Sons Contracting
Keaney Chrysler
Kinark Outdoors Centre
Linda Seider
Little Hawk Resort & Marina
Living Libations
McKee Security & Telephone Systems
Michael Fay
Of Sound Body
Out to Learn
Patient News Publishing Ltd.
Pogo Industries
Redstone River Luge Club
Relax with Lisa
SIRCH
South Algonquin Trails Inc.
Stoneware Pottery
The Business Centre
The Creative Cocoon
The Diving Company
The Highlands Courier
The Legend Carpet & Duct Cleaning Centre
The Outdoor Design Company Ltd.
Thermoshell
TMS Services
Tracey's Bistro & Grill
U-Links
Wedgewood Marine & Recreation
Wind in the Willows Spa & Acupuncture Clinic

BUSINESS LOANS
July 2005 - June 2006

Summary of Investments:

Total Funds / Loans Outstanding	$ 6,014,060
Total Investments	$ 2,362,657
Total Investment Portfolio	$ 8,376,717

For our fiscal year ending June 30, 2006 the HCDC disbursed 80 loans (EODF & Investment) totalling over $2.9 million dollars.

Loans by Municipality:

Algonquin Highlands	9
Dysart et al.	47
Highlands East	4
Minden Hills	20
Total	**80**

Loans by Sector:

		$
Communications	1	$ 125,000
Construction	8	$ 282,874
Forestry	13	$ 323,287
Manufacturing	4	$ 264,961
Retail	15	$ 678,892
Service	32	$ 980,809
Tourism	6	$ 250,221
Agriculture	1	$ 90,000
Total	**80**	**$ 2,996,045**

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Volunteers deserve thanks for enriching our lives this holiday

AROUNDTHETOWN

Patti Fleury
488-2938 Fax: 488-1246
email:brucefleury@ptbo.igs.net

The only year I was every really ready for Christmas was back in 1962 when our first baby was due on Christmas Eve. In spite of assurance from our doctor about never having had to deliver a baby on Christmas, son David Fraser Fleury loudly announced his arrival at 12:49 a.m. early that Christmas morning. This column will be on the newsstand come December 27th and on that day our family is again expecting a new member. Oldest daughter Megan, husband Greg and 10-year-old Austin will welcome Bronco a young golden retriever/lab cross rescue dog coming all the way from Quebec.

This has been a busy year here in our town of Kinmount with many community events and projects. Appreciation is extended to all those volunteers who both on an individual or group basis enrich the lives and lifestyles we all hope to find here in rural Ontario. I know that this spirit of generosity will continue as we come into the New Year 2007. Best wishes go out to all for the holidays from our homes to yours.

Now for the Scoring News with your usual reminder to keep busy and well. They go together.

The events listed are only those held between Tuesday and Thursday evening of the week before Christmas. With changes in schedules over the holidays give your convener a call if unsure.

December 19 bid euchre at Minden Legion: Jean Scadden reports that top spot went to Gil Scott at 292 then Pat Scadden 279 and Jesse Barlow 277. Moonshots went to Ida Young, Gil Scott, Elva Paisley, Marcel Roussel and Kevin Maloney with Elli Langpohl, Albert Foster, Len Kroes and Jean Scadden.

December 19 contract bridge at Stanhope: There was great Christmas spirit in the air with one Slam played over the afternoon by Pearl Foster and Diana Spicer. Pearl also led the close scoring with 5860 followed by Paul Pethick 5790, Ross Fletcher 5740 and Harold Cox 5600. Gloria Moore was the lucky draw winner, Lita Peirol received the Shiny Penny and Pearl Foster the M.P.C.S. Special Award for her Minnie Pearl Christmas Special effort.

December 19 euchre at Lochlin: Lone hand honours went to Gerald Hicks while Ralph Young won the special prize. For the gents George Bartley was high and Don Hicks low with Joyce Schellenberg high lady and Eleanor Young low. On behalf of the Lochlin group Barbara Carpenter extends good wishes for the New Year and reminds that the next card game will be on January 16th.

December 19 Stanhope Firehall Seniors Mixed Shuffleboard: Top team members were George Hamilton and Connie Sawyer with 423 points then it was Sandy Poulton and Marj Hamilton second at 332. Flo Roussel and Cliff Davison filled the third slot at 234 while Colleen Davison and John Platt recorded the afternoon's low. Thanks to Pearl Cowen for this update.

December 20 duplicate bridge at Parklane, Haliburton: In first place were Margo Davidson and Muriel McIntosh at 58% with Diana Spicer partnered with Doug McIntosh second at 53% and in third Stella McMillan and Ross Davies at 52%.

December 20 Kinmount Seniors euchre at Kinmount Legion: For the ladies Mildred St. Thomas was high and Marcy Morgan low with Theresa Deak winning for high man and Mike St. Thomas low. Our reporter Theresa Deak proved a triple winner also taking most lone hands and the special draw. She reminds that the next euchre will be on January 3.

December 20 bid euchre at Stanhope: Single moonshots went to Trudy Kroes, Don Burch, Jack Cox and Verna McDonald with Helen Windsor getting a hattrick with three. Leading the whites was Garth Windsor at 303 then Pat Scadden 288 and Kevin Maloney 251. Tops for the pinks was Helen Windsor at 309 followed by Willie Cox 287 and Marnie Butler 247.

December 21 euchre at Minden Legion: Holding the most lone hands were Kay Orr and Bob Pollard with Ellen Holden and Gwen Cox recording the high scores. Lois Adamson and Sharon Atkinson had the lows while the other prizes for the evening went to Lorna Hicks [2], Bob Cleverly, Lois Adamson, Marcel Roussel and Ellen Holden. May Bradbury reminds that there will not be cards on December 28.

December 18 Kinmount Seniors bid euchre at Kinmount Legion: Top spot went to Mildred St. Thomas with Dorothy McElwain second and Marcy Morgan third. Mike St. Thomas had the only moonshot of the afternoon and also won the special draw.

December 18 cribbage at Minden Legion: The top trio in order were Edith Burch, Bob Cleverly and Verna McDonald with Eileen Shapiera, Helen Luffman and Gwen Cox winning the other prizes. On behalf of all the players Elva Paisley sends out best wishes for the holiday season to everyone and reminds that the next cribbage event will be held on January 8th.

December 18 euchre at Staanworth Terrace, Minden: Our reporter Elaine Yeo won for high hands, Ray St. Pierre for lone hands, Pearl Cowen for low hands with special prizes going to Ray St. Pierre, Diane Peacock, Bev Johnson and Don Jemmett. This euchre event is scheduled next for December 27th and January 3rd at the usual 7 p.m. start time. Get well wishes are sent out to Murray Daniels from his many euchre friends.

December 18 euchre at St. Paul's Friendship Club, Minden: There was a party atmosphere at the Friendship Club with lone hand honours going to Betty Sharpe and Jesse Barlow. High score holders were Marion Stickwood and Barb Braithwaite with Lois Adamson and Bill Mosley recording the afternoon's lows. Special prizes went to Laura Carnegie and Gala Stamp. Tim Sharpe reminds that the next euchre will be on January 8th and everyone in the Club is looking forward to the new year ahead.

December 18 euchre at Club 35: Leroy Mowat won for lone hands with Jean Randell and Ray Sisson recording the high scores. Pearl Kernohan took the prize for low lady and also the bologna with our reporter Garth Windsor low man. Special prizes were awarded to Alvin Cowen and Linda Voycey. Garth reminds that the next euchre will be on January 8th.

Left: Sam Olliffe, 5, and Danielle Allison, 5, fashion reindeer antler hats for Santa's visit.
Above: Carson Sisson, 5, got his turn with Santa and received a candy cane and letter from jolly old St. Nick.

Photos by Jessica Young

Trillium Lakelands
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School
NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR SEMESTER 2

Classes commence Friday, February 2nd, 2007.
Students interested in meeting with a counsellor to choose classes at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School for Semester 2 should phone for an appointment by January 12th, 2007.

Please contact Alison Rae at 457-2950, ext. 227

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Kathryn Verduyn, Director
Gary Brohman, Principal
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Trillium Lakelands
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ratepayers and supporters of the Trillium Lakelands District School Board can find 2005-2006 Audited Financial Statements at **www.tldsb.on.ca**

Financial Statement Package includes:

- Auditor's Report
- Consolidated Statement Of Financial Position
- Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities
- Consolidated Statement of Changes in Financial Position
- Schedule of Internally Restricted Reserve Funds
- Schedule of School Activities Fund
- Notes to Financial Statements

Further information can be obtained by contacting Susan Kirkpatrick at the Trillium Lakelands District School Board Corporate Office:

P.O. Box 420, 300 County Road 36,
Lindsay, Ontario K9V 4S4
(705) 324-6776 ext 164 1-888-526-5552

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DORSETNEWS
Melissa Alfano
705-766-0076
melalfano@hotmail.com

The newly formed Dorset Book Club will be meeting at the Dorset Library Branch on Wednesday January 3 at 1:00 p.m.. The title being discussed is The Stone Carvers by Jane Urquhart. New members are always welcome and people can contact Ruth or Sandy at the Dorset Branch at 766-9969 for more information.

Kung fu in Dorset! Turn off the TV and get in shape this season. Strengthen your body, sharpen your mind, and enliven your spirit. Temple Knights Kung Fu is a traditional martial arts system involving, punching, kicking, grappling, forms, meditation and ethical instruction. This martial art develops coordination, flexibility, speed, power, confidence and strength while developing new skills and having fun. There will be a free introductory class on Saturday, January 6 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Dorset Recreation Centre and registration will follow. The first session will run from January 13 for 9 weeks and will cost $135 (plus $8.10 GST) for a total of $143.10 for children and adults. A 10 per cent family discount rate will be offered. For more information call (705) 767-1177 or email tknights@mus-koka.com . There will be a sign up sheet at the Dorset Recreation Centre.

The winter session of Tai Chi, Chi Kung and meditation begins at the Dorset Recreation Centre on Tuesday, January 9. All levels including beginners are welcome to this nine week session taught by Valerie Houston Peel of Temple Knights Holistic Martial Arts. For more information or to register, call the Recreation Centre at 766-9968.

Creative Memories consultant Ruth Lynch will be hosting a Creative Memories Workshop at the Dorset Recreation Centre on January 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.. All are welcome to attend to learn more about the very popular hobby of scrapbooking. Come for a full day or half day – different rates apply. For more information, contact Ruth at 766-1148.

The 10th Annual Dinner and Music Night takes place at the Dorset Recreation Centre on Saturday, January 13 starting at 6:00 p.m. A wonderful d inner is prepared by the Dorset Lifeliners and music is provided by local musicians. Organizing the musical portion of the evening is Joe Alfano who can be contacted at 766-0076 by interested participants. For reservations, please call the Recreation Centre at 766-9968.

One of the greatest gifts you can give children is frequent contact with words throughout childhood. Reading aloud feeds a child's interest in books and increases the desire to read, at any age. Your library branch has picture books, easy to read books, and chapter

books to satisfy all ages and reading levels. A variety of titles helps build children's vocabulary skills and makes it more fun for the care giver too! Borrow books from your branch this week to mix in some new stories with your old favorites! Reading is quality time - share it with a child today!

Birthday wishes for the week of December 24 to 30 go out to Kyle Chatelain, Rebecca Arbuckle and Len Whitworth. Celebrate and have fun on your special day!

The Township of
Minden Hills
In Season, Every Season

The Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills is looking for local residents to help make decisions about programs and services within Minden Hills, to reflect the demographic makeup of our Township. If you are interested in sitting on one or more of the Township's Advisory Committees of Council, as noted below, we look forward to hearing from you.

Minden Hills Cultural Centre (Museum/ Agnes Jamieson Gallery)
Minden Library Committee
Cemetery Board
Canada Day Committee
Timberfest Committee
Irondale Community Facilities Advisory Committee
Committee of Adjustment

We would kindly ask that you provide us with a Letter of Interest on or before January 5th, 2007, and complete the form provided on our website www.minden.on.ca (or at our office - 2nd floor) by the due date, either by mail, fax, email or dropping same off at the Administration Department, 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Cheryl McCarroll, Clerk
Township of Minden Hills
7 Milne Street, Minden
(705) 286-1260 ext. 214
cmccarroll@county.haliburton.on.ca

COMMUNITY

what's happening in the Highlands **CALENDAR**

Sponsored by
The Times
MINDEN ONTARIO

- **Dec. 28:** VON Foot Care Clinic starting at 9 a.m. Located at Staanworth Court Lounge, Minden. Subsequent clinics the fourth Thurs. of the month. To book an appointment call 1-800-743-6255. Everyone welcome.
- **Dec. 30:** Joint worship service at Minden United Church (for this pastoral charge) at 11 a.m.
- **Dec. 31:** Tracey's Bistro & Grill presents A New Years Eve Casino Night. Casino entertainment includes poker, roulette, blackjack and slot machines. Sunday, 7 p.m. A 3 course meal, party favours, champagne toast at midnight, door prizes, etc. Contact Tracey at 457-2795 or email or email traceys-bistrogrill@bellnet.ca for more info and cost. A portion of the proceeds benefits Cottage Dreams.
- **Jan. 6:** Snowmobile Driving Training Course – Pre register to obtain your "Motorized Snow Vehicle Operator's License". You must be 12-15 years of age or an adult without a valid driver license. Held at the Cavendish Community Police Hall on Hwy. 507 north of Buckhorn. Lunch is provided at a small cost. Dates: Sat., Dec. 16, 8:30 a.m.; Sat., Jan. 6, 2007, 8:30 a.m. Please call to pre register, Elaine Dittrick 457-7038.
- **Jan. 7:** Down to Earth Conversations at Gaia Centre. Sun., 4:30 p.m. View and discuss. An Inconvenient Truth. All welcome to a potluck vegetarian supper. No costs. Please RSVP to 754-2427 or gaiacentre@sympatico.ca
- **Jan. 10, 17, 24 & 31:** A new series of Prenatal Classes is starting to help expectant parents prepare for the birth of their new baby. The Free Program is being offered by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit. The classes run on Wednesdays on the dates above. It will be offered at the Ontario Early Years Centre in the Halco Plaza in Haliburton Village. Register before January 10 by calling the Health Unit at 457-1391.
- **Jan. 11:** Minden Well Baby Drop-in Clinic. Visit with a Family Health Nurse to see how your baby is growing and developing. Held at the Ontario Early Years Centre in Minden (inside Sears Building) from 10 a.m. to noon. For more info, call the Health Unit at 457-1391.
- **Jan. 11:** Ladies Fellowship – 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. at the West Guilford Community Centre. For more info. Call Lyn at 457-3155 or Alice at 754-2808.

- **Every day a new picture** of Haliburton County, and sometimes beyond. Just visit www.jackbush.myexpressions.com. every day. A great reminder of why we all love living right here.
- **Haliburton Legion, Br. 129** – Every Wednesday night is Bingo night. Early Bird starts at 7:00 p.m.
- **Haliburton Legion Branch 129** – General Meeting – 2nd Thursday of each month (excluding January & February) at 7:30 p.m. Call 457-2571.
- **Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 636,** Minden holds its General Business Meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
- **First Friday of every month:** Open Mike Nite at the Dominion Hotel, Main St. in Minden. Starts at 8 p.m. Local performers needed; musical, comedy, magic, poets, etc. Call 286-6954 or 286-5035 to book your act.
- **The Haliburton Highlands Prostate Cancer Support Group** meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge at the Highland Crest Senior Citizen's home in Minden. All men and the women who love them are welcome. For info. please contact Rick Ratcliff at 286-6699.
- **The Minden Women's Institute** meets at 1:30 p.m. every 3rd Wed. of the month. Contact 286-1588 or 754-1656 for information
- **Do you enjoy euchre, bridge, and other card games?** Come to the Card Night at the Fort Irwin's Residents' Assoc. Hall (FIRA) on Tues. evenings from 7-9 p.m. For more info call Ken Fuller at 754-3699.
- **Community Care** Haliburton County has volunteers just waiting to give seniors 55+ or physically disabled adults a Security Check Phone Call. If you know of anyone who needs a phone call once a day, please call Judy at 457-2941.
- **Township of Algonquin Highlands** – Writers Circle every other Saturday at Club 35 starting at 9 a.m. The circle is open to writers of all capabilities, be they experienced or emerging. For info call: 489-3878.
- **Did you know** that Community Care Haliburton County offers nutritiously-balanced frozen meals on wheels. We have transportation services to get you to medical and other appointments. And we offer an Emergency Response System for seniors that want the security of knowing that they can access help at any time, without reaching the telephone. For info. call 457-2941.
- **Family Drop-In Saturdays:** Rails End Gallery & Arts Centre. Last Saturday of every month, 2-4 p.m. Jan. 27, & Feb. 24. Enjoy a free tour of the current exhibition followed by Open Studio activities for the whole family. Call 457-2330.
- **Adult Badminton:** Mondays 8 - 10 p.m. Now until May 28/07 at Archie Stouffer Elementary School, Minden. Join us for fun, fellowship & fitness. Call 286-1765 for further information.
- **Tea at 3:** Rails End Gallery & Arts Centre. Every Wednesday, for adults who like to talk about ART and drink tea. 3 o'clock. Free. Call 457-2330.
- **For women** experiencing any type of abuse, call the YWCA Crisis Line at 286-6442 or (800) 461-7656.
- **The Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild** meets every second Wednesday of each month at Camp Adelaide, which is on #118, between Haliburton & Tory Hill. The building is open from 10 a.m. for those who want to do some quilting, etc., and the general meeting starts at 1 p.m. with refreshments at mid-meeting. Guests and new members are welcome. Call Anita Dobell at 457-3723.
- **Ontario Breast Screening Program** - for women 50 years and over, screening by appointment only on Thursdays and Fridays at Ross Memorial Hospital. No doctor referral necessary. (705) 328-6175.
- **Township of Algonquin Highlands** – For adults and seniors in the community, Euchre at Club 35 on Mondays at 7 p.m. For more info call: 489-2945.
- **Don't forget that Community Care** offers Contract Bridge every Mon. afternoon, Bid Euchre every Thurs. afternoon and Cribbage every Fri. afternoon. Games begin at 1 o'clock. Call Ida at 457-2941.
- **Al-Anon Meetings** – Are you affected by someone else's drinking? If so, Al-anon may be for you. Haliburton Highlands Meeting, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., St. George's Anglican Church (side door entrance), Haliburton; Minden Al-anon Meeting, Mondays, 8:00 p.m. at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home meeting room (north entrance), Minden.
- **If you are a senior (55+)** or a physically disabled adult (18+) and like to play cards, Community Care Haliburton County offers Contract Bridge every Mon. afternoon at 1 p.m., Bid Euchre is offered every Thurs. afternoon at 1 p.m. and Cribbage is offered every Fri. at 1 p.m. Call Ida at 457-2941.

Events listings are provided **FREE** for non-profit groups on a space-available basis. While we endeavor to accommodate requests for publication, we cannot guarantee that all requests for listings will appear. Requests should be faxed to The Times at 286-4768, emailed to editor@mindentimes.on.ca., or brought in to the office. **NOTE:** This calendar is **NOT A COMPREHENSIVE LISTING OF ALL EVENTS** taking place in the area. Please check the classified pages, display advertising and articles appearing elsewhere in The Times for more information on events and in the Highlands.

The Times
MINDEN ONTARIO

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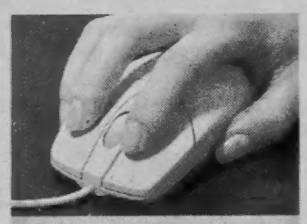

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MERCHANDISE

Firewood A180

Seasoned Firewood - Cut last winter Dunloe Farms West Guilford Delivery Available Call 754-3034 10482145

Seasoned Firewood for Sale - Can deliver. Call 286-3435 10484222

Miscellaneous A230

For sale Grandfather clock, brand new, smaller size, excellent Christmas gift. $900 or BO.286-1843 evenings or leave message. 10478928

WOW
Get great rates and even greater results with the Osprey Classified Network! 10637

FOR SALE - Option Super Cap Snowboard 162 cm Tall. Like new $250.00 Call 286-4733. Please leave a message. 10478333

For sale - Sims Link snowboard bindings. 1 yr. old, asking $150 OBO. 1 periwinkle helmet, size medium, asking $50 OBO. Call 489-3548 after 6pm. 10476825

GENERATOR, DIESEL Yanmar, 3 cylinder , 10 Kw standby, completely rebuilt. 1-800-954-9998 10471173

PETS & AGRICULTURE

Dogs A310

FOR SALE - 3 Month old Jack Russell Terrier. !st shots. Female $300.00 O.B.O Call 457-2607 or 705-935-0505 Ask for Sherry 10483570

Tired of all the stuff taking over your garage and your life? Call Osprey Classifieds and get it sold! For great rates and even better results, call 1-866-541-6757. 10684

Lost & Found A320

LOST! "KAZ" is missing. Black and White Border Collie from Carnarvon Area. **Please Call** 489-2646 10480527

TRANSPORTATION

Vans/ Trucks A420

For sale - 1 pair of GM fibreglass running boards, black in colour. Suitable for ext-cab truck, 1999 to present. Asking $100 OBO. Call 489-3548 after 6pm. 10476870

Parts & Accessories A430

1994 Ford Aerostar Mini Van - Motor Runs, Great Parts Vehicle! Asking $800 firm "As Is". Call 448-9031 10484097

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Snowmobiles A490

For sale - 1998 Yamaha VT600 snowmobile. 2000 km, $4500. 1999 Snowmobile trailer, Hyland, $800. 905-845-7029 or 286-2276. 10482150

CLASSIFIEDS 1-866-541-6757 130773

REAL ESTATE

RENTALS

Apartments Furnished A600

One and two bedroom cottage, furnished, 3 and 4 pce bathroom, electric heat, no pets (705)489-2550. 10478909

VACATION & TRAVEL

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

EDUCATION

NOTICES

COMMUNITY SERVICES

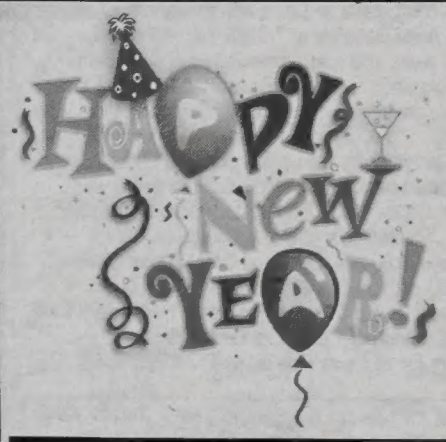
Coming Events A940

Minden Health Care Auxillary Gift shop will be closed from Dec. 24 to Jan. 1 and re-open Jan. 2 for great shopping! 10474730

Does this space look just right for your ad? Call Osprey at 1-866-541-6757 and make it a reality 10718

Shop at the Pritchard House for Christmas Gifts. Haliburton Weavers Guild opens the shop in Dec.,Tues-Sat. 10:30am-4:30pm. 10476349

Cars A400



May the New Year bring you bundles of happiness and success. Thanks for your generous support.

GEORGE'S auto 457-1717

General Employment A800

Community Care Haliburton County
275 hour contract position
(January - June, 2007)

To oversee our inter-generational (Seniors and high school students) **New Horizon's project - Seniors in Haliburton County - telling our stories".** Diploma in Social Services and/or the arts and a working knowledge of the communities in Haliburton County is required. A full job description is available at our office. Please send application including a resume with references by January 5, 2007 to:
Donna MacDonald
Executive Director
Community Care Haliburton County
P.O. Box 956, Haliburton, Ont. K0M 1S0
We thank all that apply but only those on the short list will be contacted.

Canada's Top 100 Employers 2006 — Featured in MACLEAN'S

PATIENT NEWS PUBLISHING

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Needed
At Patient News Publishing
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Mid-level Graphic Designer needed in our Design Department. The selected candidate will have a degree in graphic design and a minimum of 2 years business experience in a design setting. Attention to detail coupled with a true creative flair required. Experience with PhotoShop, Illustrator, InDesign & colour correction preferred. Patient News Publishing offers an energetic team atmosphere and leading edge working environment. Please forward resume to careers@patientnews.com, subject line: graphic designer.

General Employment A800

Wigamog Inn Resort

Career Opportunities

A great opportunity to be a part of our ambitious team and contribute to the success of one of the fastest growing family resorts in Ontario.

Permanent Year Round
+ Part time Positions
Competitive Salaries

Servers / Bartenders
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Join our WINNING TEAM at Wigamog Inn Resort.
Please forward resume to Wigamog Inn Resort
gina@wigamoginn.com www.wigamoginn.com

Coming Events A940

RETIRED TEACHERS OF ONTARIO
Haliburton Unit
are having their annual
CHICKADEE LUNCHEON
at the Old Country House, Haliburton
Monday, January 15th
at 12:00p.m.

A flat rate of $15 will be charged.

All R.T.O. Members, Retired Teachers and Guests Welcome

Members will be telephoned.

For non-member reservations call Louise Cooper at (705) 754-9129
or
Marg Valentine at (705) 454-3451
by January 9

Coming Events A940

FREE PUBLIC SKATING
January 3, 4, 5, & 6, 2007
11am - 1pm
Minden Arena
Sponsored by Tim Hortons

THE TIMES

Coming Events A940

STEP IT FITNESS
Winter Session Starts January 15th.
Cardio/ Step/WTS/ Fitball/ Pilates, Certified Instructors
Phone Jane @ 457-1052 EX205
10484857

To all MHCA members There will be no meeting in January. Next meeting is on February 1st at 1:30pm.
10474726

GOT SOMETHING TO BARK ABOUT?

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Business Services S370

LAND WORX Skid Steer Service - Snowplowing, Sanding, Skidsteer with 6 foot wide snow blower. Call George at 457-7033 (cell) 286-1775 (Home)
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Your ad here.
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The Times 286-1288

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THE ECHO 457-1037
THE TIMES 286-1288

Announcements

Deaths

CARD OF THANKS
Thanks for the memories, the help along the way, the special things you do. Any time is a great time to tell someone how much they are appreciated. Need help expressing yourself
OSPREY CLASSIFIED It Works!
Call OSPREY CLASSIFIEDS 1-866-541-6757
12822

ANNOUNCEMENTS
For those special occasions of remembrance of a loved one we cherish and miss. A poem or thought to share with all who's lives were touched by a special person. Place your memoriam to share today.
Call 1-866-541-6757
OSPREY CLASSIFIEDS
10673

Births

Gavin & Jaime Simms are pleased to announce the birth of their son

Carson Kent Simms,
born Nov. 16, 2006 - 8lbs. 13 oz.,
Proud grandparents are Dewayen & Colleen Simms and Lonnie & Jackie Hughes.

Deaths

ANNOUNCEMENTS MAKE GREAT KEEPSAKES!
OSPREY CLASSIFIED It Works!
Call **Toll Free 1-866-541-6757** to book your announcement **TODAY!**
10530

Births

Hi Everyone... It's me Naomi Jade Robinson. I was born on Dec. 4, 2006 weighing in at 6 lbs. 9 oz. My parents Chris & Chey Robinson, my grandparents Dave & Joanne Robinson & Deborah & Robin Martin are very excited I'm here, as are Uncle Tim, Aunt Crystal and Madison. I can't wait to meet all my new friends and family.

Until then Happy Holidays to Everyone

Deaths

RENNIE, Robert "Bob" -At South Muskoka Memorial Hospital in Bracebridge on Tuesday evening, December 19, 2006 in his 57th year. Beloved husband of Elizabeth 'Liz' Rennie. Loving father of Matthew. Cherished son of John & Doreen Rennie. Dear brother of Dennis (Marilyn), Brian (Mary), David (Patti), Sandra, & Christine (Mrs. Christopher Anderson). Friends may call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705)457-9209 on Saturday afternoon, December 23, 2006 from 1 o'clock until time of Memorial Service at 2 o'clock in the Chapel. Interment later Bracebridge Municipal Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy donations to the South Muskoka Hospital Foundation or Hospice Muskoka would be appreciated by the family.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com
10484551

OSPREY CLASSIFIED It Works! **Call 1-866-541-6757**
12620

Deaths

TIMBERS - Brian, Passed away on Sunday December 17, 2006 in his 55th year.
Will be deeply missed by his beloved wife Pat & son Jason, son Ryan of Fort Erie, daughters Corrin & Colleen from Denver, brothers Stuart, Rob, Gary and sister Suzie and loving parents Morley & Fern Timbers.

There will be a **Celebration of Life** at the Haliburton Legion Wed. Dec. 27, from 1 - 3 pm.
10484383

In memoriam

ROWDEN, Junior and Shirley - In loving memory of a dear son and daughter-in-law who left us December 26, 1988.
They were very special, Who can never be replaced, Their memory in our daily lives Can never be erased. Time cannot steal the memories, We carry in our hearts, Or take away the Happy years of which they were a part. To loose Junior and Shirley leaves a wound, That never heals, an ever aching heart.
Never to be forgotten.
- Sadly missed by Mom and family
10468858

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Funeral Services

Funeral Services

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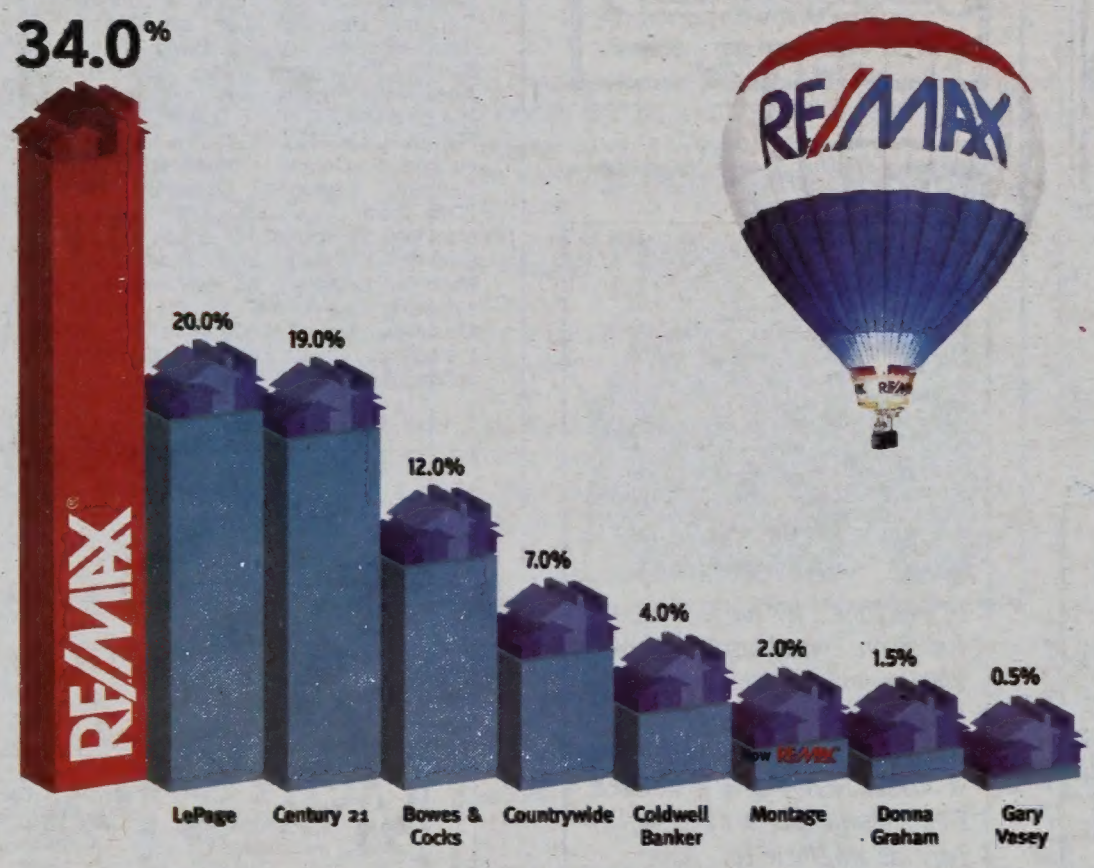
Happy New Year!



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Ken Barry**
457-1011 ext. 228

Linda Baumgartner*
457-1011 ext. 231

Linda Beachli***
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Peter Brady**
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Fred Chapple*
286-2911 ext. 43

Deborah Deremo*
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Victor Disik*
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Lenor Fulton*
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Lynda Litwin*
286-2911 ext. 35

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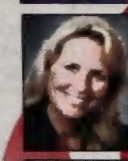
Erin Nicholls*
457-1011 exts. 238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Bill Kulas*
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Cathy Lancia**
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Denise LeBlanc*
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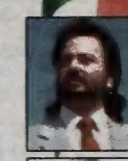
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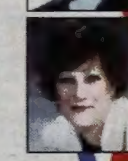
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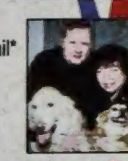
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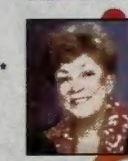
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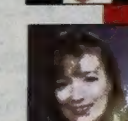
Melanie Vigrass*
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